



Letters to the Editor: 10.06.16

Our readers comments

| October 6, 2016 - 8:27am

Strategic Retreat

Montauk

October 3, 2016

Dear David,

Concerned Citizens of Montauk's public forum on Saturday, "The Future of Downtown Montauk," featured a diverse five-member panel and spirited discussion on the options before us — and the participation of over 90 Montauk residents.

To all who participated, many thanks, including to our panelists: Paul Monte, president of the Montauk Chamber of Commerce; East Hampton Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell; David Rattray, editor of The East Hampton Star; Jen Garvey, co-director of the Stony Brook center for Clean Water Technology, and Colleen Henn, representing the Eastern Long Island Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Recognizing that a long-term vision for Montauk requires a comprehensive plan for Montauk's coastal resiliency, it was gratifying to note that there is broad agreement from the environmental community, elected leaders from the federal, state, and local levels, and the business community that a sand-only beach nourishment project, accompanied by a strategic retreat plan, is a smart, combined approach that will make our community a regional and national leader in climate adaptation among coastal communities.

The process by which we get to a comprehensive long-term plan has begun, and the Town of East Hampton, through its recent planning efforts, has provided the framework for the community's involvement. The hamlet planning process in Montauk was a good start and in the next few weeks will be supplemented by the Coastal Assessment and Resiliency, or CARP, planning work, a fully funded public planning effort built around maximizing participation and achieving the goal of providing answers to the tough questions that surround the issue of managed retreat from vulnerable coastal areas.

We look forward to and encourage public leadership at both the local and county level and the active and ongoing participation of the Montauk community to build our future together.

JEREMY SAMUELSON

President

Concerned Citizens of Montauk